able information there are a number of officers who are giving very good results even after they have reached the limit of Rs. 10 lakhs as reward.

(c) and (d) It is true that further rewards are not admissible to such officers. However such officers are eligible to other incentives like President's Appreciation Certificate for excellent performance.

(e) Reward Policy is under challenge before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Changes in Reward Policy shall be considered as and when a need for the same arises.

Curtailing Wasteful Expenditure on Marriages

903. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring legislation for curtailing exorbitant wasteful expenditure on marriages ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) (a) No, Sir, there is no such proposal.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, under the Expenditure Tax Act, all expenses incurred in the premises of up-market hotels are subject to expenditure tax at the rate of 20 per cent. Thus, the expenses incurred in connection with marriages in luxury hotels attract expenditure tax at 20 per cent. Under the existing provisions of Income-tax Act, the income-tax authorities are empowered to record statement of a person who has incurred expenditure on marriage or require any other person to furnish information in connection with the nature and extent of expenditure incurred in any function, ceremony or event. The object of this provision of the Income-tax Act is to collect evidence about obtentatious expenditure immediately after such events to be used at the time of income-tax assessment.

Paid up Share Capital for Regional Rural Banks

904. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group under the Chairmanship of Shri S. M. Kelkar recommended for a paid up share capital of Rs. 1 crore for each Regional Rural Bank;

(b) if so, what is the number of RRBs which have now paid up capital of Rs. 1 crore each ;

(c) whether the concerned sponsor banks and State Bank and State Government have contributed due percentage of their respective shares to the RRBs; and

(d) if not, what are the names of the defaulting sponsor banks and State Governments and what action is being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. The said Working Group recommended that the issued capital of all the RRBs may be raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs in a phased manner.

(b) to (d) As at the end of March, 1993, the issued capital of nine RRBs namely Howrah Gramin Bank, Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Junagarh Gramin Bank and Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank has been enhanced to Rs. 1 crore. The share capital of remaining RRBs will be enhanced